

# Brentwood NEWSLETTER

*The Voice of the People – Now on the Internet*



Volume XLIV No. 2

Brentwood, New Hampshire

February 2020

## It's a Dirty Word, But I'll Say It – TRASH!

It's that time of year – town meeting is right around the corner on March 14th and residents who attend that meeting will be voting to approve the town's budget for the year.

Some increases are unavoidable, but there are things we can do in each of our homes to help reduce town spending.

The combined budget last year for trash pickup, trash disposal, and recycling was \$281,800. The proposed budget for those services this year is \$356,550. That's a lot of dollars to – literally – throw away.

So what can **YOU** do? Here are some ideas:

- Buy products with less packaging.
- Buy in bulk and reuse the original packaging or your own containers.
- Compost kitchen scraps. According to the EPA, food scraps and yard waste together currently make up more than 28 percent of what we throw away.
- Have chickens, goats, or other livestock? Feeding them many of your kitchen scraps will reduce your weekly trash volume. Do your research to learn what your animals can safely eat.
- Do you have camp fires or backyard firepits? Save the paper in your recycle bin to burn.
- Do you have kids? Repurpose some of those recyclable egg cartons, jugs, and boxes for craft projects. No kids? Ask the library or another facility with children if there are items they might be in need of.
- Eye glasses no longer in use? Lions Clubs will take those.
- Why buy bubble wrap when you can reuse newspaper to store breakables or ship care packages to college students, distant relatives, or the troops.
- Have an appliance or a piece of furniture that you no longer need? Repurpose it, sell it, or donate it. There are many organizations in our area that gladly accept just about anything you want to get rid of.
- Bring your books and magazines to the library or a nursing home.
- Old clothes? Bring them to a veterans shelter, a homeless shelter, or a thrift store. There are a couple of clothing sheds for donations



right here in Brentwood, one across from Lindy's and another located in the parking lot of the Baptist Church on North Road. See the Baptist Church column in this issue for more information.

- Local thrift stores (there are MANY) will also accept in-good-condition household items you no longer want, need, or use. Exeter Community Thrift Shop on Rt. 27 in Exeter, and Wonderland Thrift Store on Portsmouth Avenue in Stratham are close by. There is a Habitat for Humanity ReStore located at 29 Fox Run Road in Newington that will accept everything from plumbing and lighting fixtures to furniture and cabinetry ([www.nhrestore.org](http://www.nhrestore.org)).
- Consignment stores are also an option for items too good to throw away. Finders Keepers and Cam's Antiques are in Exeter, and Twice a Lady at the traffic circle in Stratham will help you sell your "tasteful, trendy products."
- February 18 is National Battery Day. Did you know that Lowes will recycle your spent rechargeable batteries? They also have receptacles for Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs), used cell phones, and plastic shopping bags.
- Staples and Best Buy will take your used toner cartridges and old computers, telephones, and other electronics. Check with them to see what they will accept.

Something I haven't mentioned? Take a few moments to search the internet and you're likely to find a place that is looking for just about anything you no longer want, and somehow put it to good use.

If you have other great ideas for recycling or repurposing, send them to [brentwoodnews2018@gmail.com](mailto:brentwoodnews2018@gmail.com) and we will include them on our new website or run a Wanted or Free ad in an upcoming BNL issue.

The Brentwood Newsletter will continue to include articles on trash, recycling, and composting over the next several months. If you'd like to contribute an article on this subject, please contact us at [info@brentwoodnewsletter.org](mailto:info@brentwoodnewsletter.org).

**The best way to reduce the cost of getting rid of our trash,  
is to reduce the amount of trash we get rid of.**

*Michelle Siudut*

# Brentwood Newsletter

Town of Brentwood  
[www.brentwoodnh.gov](http://www.brentwoodnh.gov)

## TOWN CLERK and TAX COLLECTOR

(603) 642-6400 ext 113/114  
Mon., Wed., Thurs. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Tuesday 8:30 am - 7:00 pm  
Friday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

(603) 642-6400 ext 110 Fax: 642-6310  
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

## BRENTWOOD POLICE

Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: (603) 642-8817

## BRENTWOOD FIRE

Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: (603) 642-8132

## MARY E. BARTLETT LIBRARY

(603) 642-3355  
[brentwoodlibrary@comcast.net](mailto:brentwoodlibrary@comcast.net)  
[www.brentwoodlibrary.org](http://www.brentwoodlibrary.org)  
Monday 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Tuesday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

## PLANNING BOARD

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

(603) 642-6400 ext 116  
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Planning Board meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday  
of the month at 7:00 pm

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT

(603) 642-6400 ext. 120  
Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
[recreation@brentwoodnh.gov](mailto:recreation@brentwoodnh.gov)  
[www.brentwoodnh.gov/recreation](http://www.brentwoodnh.gov/recreation)

## SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

(603) 642-3487  
Swasey on the Web: [scs.sau16.org](http://scs.sau16.org)  
SAU 16 on the Web: [www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org)

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Submissions for the following month must be  
received by the 15th. Send your news to  
Email: [brentwoodnews2018@gmail.com](mailto:brentwoodnews2018@gmail.com)  
Mail: 102 Middle Road, Brentwood, NH 03833

## Recycling Pickup Dates

February 4 & 5 • February 18 & 19

## Waste Tonnage Figures

	November	December
Tons, mixed solid waste	118.67	108.58
Tons, recycled goods	21.49 (15%)	34.46 (24%)

## Selectmen's Meeting Schedule (September through April)

The Board of Selectmen meet every Tuesday at 6:00 pm in the Cross Room of the Town Office. The public is welcome to attend. If you would like to be added to the official agenda, please contact Karen Clement.

***The Town Administrator's office will be closed February 17 for Presidents Day.***

To watch previously recorded selectmen meetings go to: [vimeo.com/user97247702](https://vimeo.com/user97247702).  
If you prefer to catch them live, tune in on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm: [tinyurl.com/yxl5bb36](https://tinyurl.com/yxl5bb36).

*Karen Clement, Town Administrator*

## Town Clerk Notes

- Election Day is **Tuesday, February 11th**. Voting takes place at the Brentwood Recreation Center located at 190 Route 125 and will be open for voting from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.
- The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office will be closed on **February 11** for Presidential Primary Day and **February 17** for Presidents Day.
- Did you know that you can pay your vehicle, trailer, or dog registrations online? You can even pay your property taxes online! Visit [brentwoodnh.gov](http://brentwoodnh.gov) and select the Town Clerk/Tax Collector tab.
- We accept **CASH, CHECK** (made out to the Town of Brentwood), or **CREDIT CARDS** for all payments at the town office! **\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** A debit card is processed as a credit card only if the card has a MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or AMEX logo present. There are additional convenience fees to cover the cost of the credit card fees (2.79% with a \$1.50 minimum). These fees go directly to our third party processor and are not retained by the Town. *Convenience fees cannot be refunded.*
- When transferring your plates, please bring in your old registration to return to the state. A copy will cost \$17.50.
- We are able to provide **HUNTING/FISHING** licenses and register **BOATS, OHRV**.
- NH state law requires you to register dogs (RSA 466:1 Procuring License; Tag). You can obtain a copy of this law at the Town Clerk's Office.

## Dog license fees for 2020

\$10.00 for an unneutered/unspayed dog	\$7.50 for a neutered/spayed dog
\$7.50 for a puppy (up to 7 months old)	\$3.00 on the first dog for a senior resident.

Dog licenses may be obtained starting **January 2nd** and must be filed before **April 30, 2020** to avoid fines.

*Daphne Woss, Brentwood Town Clerk/Tax Collector*

## Thank You to the January Newsletter Crew

Thank You to all the volunteers who came to help fold the latest edition: Anne Marie, Becky Betty, Becky Jean, Carole, Doug, Joe, Joyce, Lois, Monica, Nick, Phyllis, Randy, Robin, and Wellner.

If you would like to join the *Newsletter* crew on a folding night, send us an email and you'll be notified of the next folding party: [info@brentwoodnewsletter.org](mailto:info@brentwoodnewsletter.org).

## BRENTWOOD CHURCH NEWS

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – 201 North Road

Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:00 am.

Have you seen the sharp looking little shed in the parking lot at First Baptist Church? First Baptist has partnered with St. Pauly Textiles Inc. to recycle used clothing, for the benefit of those in need. The concept is a simple one: simply bag up your used, unwanted clothing, tie the bags and drop them in the oversized chute in the front of the shed. That's it! St. Pauly picks up the clothing weekly and takes it to their warehouse facility, where it is sorted and categorized. Clothing that is beyond wearable still has value: it is shredded and sold for use in industry. From there it is distributed to those in need, wherever the need may be. The St. Pauly clothing shed also takes shoes, boots, belts, sheets, blankets and comforters, *but not mattresses, furniture, dolls or toys.*

- **Each Monday** evening at 6:30 pm, dance/exercise class, Step Up With Heather. This class is open to the public, is for all ages, and for people in varying stages of conditioning. The cost is \$5.00 for each hour-long session.
- **Tuesday, February 11th**, Movie Matinee beginning at 2:00 pm.
- **Each Wednesday** evening at 6:30 pm, weekly Bible study group.

### GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL – 263 Route 125

Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:00 am.

**Feb 15** – Healing Rooms Ministry, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. We are here to pray for you with compassion and love for physical, emotional, and spiritual health. All are welcome. Healing Room Ministries is open on the third Saturday monthly.

#### Weekly Classes at Grace, 6:30 pm

Monday	Ladies Group
Wednesday	Prophetic Class
Thursday	Men's Group
Sally's Hope meets Wed at 9:00 am for Ladies	

### ST. JOSEPH PARISH – 200 Pleasant Street, Epping

St. Joseph holds weekday masses at the following times:

Monday 8:00 am	Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 7:30 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm	Saturday 8:00 am

#### Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm	Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am, and 6:00 pm
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For additional information, see our website: [stjosepheppingham.com](http://stjosepheppingham.com).

## BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

The next Directory will come out in April.

**New this year, the directory will be included in all New Resident Packets. Get your business name in front of new eyes!**

The Business Card Directory is published in April, September & December. Cost is \$25 per insertion and is open to (1) any resident of Brentwood who owns a business in Brentwood or a surrounding town, or (2) anyone who owns a business in Brentwood, even if you don't live in town. If you would like to be included on the annual mailing list, please contact us at

[brentwoodnews2018@gmail.com](mailto:brentwoodnews2018@gmail.com).

## PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BRENTWOOD-KINGSTON, 197 Middle Road (Route 111A)

Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:00 am.

We seek to live a life of active justice, extravagant welcome, and inclusive love through faith, worship, and love. Join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.

### February Activities

**Feb 3** – Movie Night at MLB Library, 7:00 pm.

**Feb 13** – Transitions Support Group **NEW NIGHT**  
(Tues is Voting Day) 6:30 pm.

**Feb 16 - 23** – Seacoast Family Promise.

**Feb 23** – Community Breakfast, 8:00 am to 9:30 am.

**Feb 26** – Ash Wednesday, Ashes to Go 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and  
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

**Feb 29** – Book Group, 8:30 am.

### Every Week

Every Monday	7:00 pm Men's AA Meeting (Closed)
Every Wednesday	7:30 pm AI Anon (Open)
	7:00 pm AA Meeting (Closed)
Every Thursday	7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
Every Friday	10:00 am Community Discussion Group
Every other Sunday	5:00 pm Girl Scouts

## With Our Deepest Sympathy



**Barbara (Burleigh) Robinson**, 86, died peacefully at home surrounded by her family on January 17. The daughter of Jesse and Mabel Burleigh, Barbara was born on March 26, 1933, and spent her entire life in Fremont.

She married Maurice Robinson in 1950 after her reddish hair caught his eye when he saw her walking to school. After marriage, they purchased the one-room schoolhouse Barbara attended as a child and made it their home, where they raised their four children.

Barbara worked for many years at the Spaulding & Frost Cooperage and was proud of the skills she learned in the barrel making business alongside her husband before arthritis took over and made the work too difficult. She enjoyed spending time with family, caring for her son's dog, Kindra, admiring her knick knacks and the many pictures that filled the walls, and tapping her feet to classic country music.

Barbara was also known for her ability to spot the tiniest speck of dirt on the floor and her sense of humor, which included dressing up in Halloween costumes to raise cane with family and friends.

She is survived by her husband of 69 years, her four children Wayne Robinson and his wife, Diane, of Brentwood; Carol Schreiber and her husband, Eric, of Fremont; Cheryl Woodman and her husband, Mark, of Fremont; and Gerald Robinson and his wife, Janet, of Fremont; grandchildren Eric Schreiber Jr., Jason Schreiber, Mark Woodman, Jared Woodman, Michelle Bryan, Sherry Robinson, Megan Robinson, Anna Robinson, and Jerry Robinson; seven great-grandchildren; sisters Phyllis Bolduc and Sally Richard, both of Raymond; brother Richard Burleigh of Brentwood; and many nieces and nephews.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have an important milestone you'd like included in the *Brentwood Newsletter*? A marriage, birth, university graduation or milestone anniversary? Please send your announcements – and photos – to [brentwoodnews2018@gmail.com](mailto:brentwoodnews2018@gmail.com).

### Brentwood Cemetery Trustees

The Cemetery Trustees will meet on **Thursday, February 6**, at 5:00 pm in the Sanborn Room at the Town Office. If you are interested in purchasing a cemetery lot, please contact Phyllis Thompson at 603-642-8896.

### Brentwood Democrats

Join us at a Brentwood Democratic Meeting. Participate as much or as little in the conversation as you would like in a friendly atmosphere. All progressive-minded individuals will be heartily welcomed. We often enjoy visits by candidates and other interesting speakers working toward a better country and a healthier Earth. We meet every month at 7:00 pm at the home of a member. Ample refreshments are a given. Our next meeting will be **February 12th**, 7:00 pm, at 25 Peabody Drive.

### Brentwood Republicans

The Brentwood Republicans will once again gather **Wednesday, February 12th** at 6:30 pm. We will be meeting at 105 S Crawley Falls Road. We have an exciting agenda and any and all residents of Brentwood are welcome to attend! Please reach out to Thad Riley, Chair of the Brentwood GOP, if you have any questions at 603-397-9211 or message him on Facebook.

### Candidates Night

The Staff and Friends of the Library will be hosting a Brentwood Candidates Night this month. Richard (Dick) K. Chamberlain, Brentwood's Town Moderator, will again be moderating this event on **Thursday, February 20th** from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library. From 7:00-7:45 candidates will speak; 7:45-8:30 audience asks questions; conclude at 8:30, EXCEPT candidates who are willing to continue to 9:00 pm for small group and one-on-one conversations.

Typically, there are ten to twelve participating candidates, some occasionally on opposing sides. The event begins with each candidate introducing themselves and speaking for three to five minutes about why they are a candidate for the position they seek. Following this introduction will be an opportunity for audience members to ask questions of each candidate. In the past, audiences have numbered between 50 and 60 residents.

Please come to this informative discussion and learn about the people in Brentwood who are looking for your vote. This is an excellent opportunity for you to speak directly to the candidates and to share your thoughts and ideas.

*Dick Chamberlain*

### Brentwood Hires KRT Appraisal To Complete Full Revaluation

The Town of Brentwood, New Hampshire has hired KRT Appraisal to conduct a Full Revaluation of all properties in the Town. There are five major phases to a municipal revaluation: Data Collection, Market Analysis, Valuation, Field Review, and Informal Hearings. During these phases many tasks will be implemented in order to successfully complete the revaluation.

The first phase, Data Collection of all properties, will begin in February, 2020. During this phase "Data Collectors" go to each property in the Town to measure the exterior of each building and attempt to inspect the interior if the owner is available at the time of the visit. These Data Collectors note the buildings' location, size, age, quality of construction, improvements, topography, utilities, zoning restrictions, if any, and numerous other characteristics both inside and out. They may also ask the homeowner a few questions regarding the property. To confirm that a home was inspected, the homeowner is asked to sign a data collection form. The entire process takes about 15 minutes for most properties. The data collected is subject to verification by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration and a KRT Supervisor.

KRT Field Representatives will carry Picture IDs, Municipal Letters of Introduction, and have their vehicles listed with both the Town Administrator's Office and Police Department.

To read more about the 5 phases that will be conducted please go to [brentwoodnh.gov](http://brentwoodnh.gov).

**The *Brentwood Newsletter* will run a SPECIAL EDITION featuring election news for March. This Special Edition will include the names of those running for offices and Warrant Articles presented before Town Meeting. Watch for the Special Edition in mid-February.**

### Annual Business Meetings & Elections

**Everyone is invited and urged to attend**

Cooperative School Deliberative Session	Thursday, February 6, 7:00 pm	Exeter High School
Public Hearing for Brentwood Town & School Budgets	Monday, February 10, 7:00 pm (Snow date Feb 11)	Brentwood Town Office Building
Presidential Primary	Tuesday, February 11, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm	Brentwood Recreation Center
Brentwood School District Meeting	Friday, March 6, 6:30 pm	Swasey Central School
Brentwood Town Elections	Tuesday, March 10, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm	Brentwood Recreation Center
Brentwood Town Meeting	Saturday, March 14, 9:00 am	Swasey Central School
NH State Primary	Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm	Brentwood Recreation Center
General Election	Tuesday, November 3, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm	Brentwood Recreation Center

## Public Access to Private Land: Landowner & Hunter FAQs

With the opening of new trails at Split Rock on South Road, and with access to other trails in town on private land, you might have some questions about access to these trails. Hunters and hikers, along with all outdoor enthusiasts, should know the rules and proper etiquette for entering someone else's property.

You shouldn't have to be a lawyer to understand New Hampshire's landowner and access issues. But it can be a little confusing, and there

are a few myths about what you can and can't do as a hunter, hiker, angler, or a landowner. New Hampshire Fish and Game's conservation officers receive a lot of questions about landowner issues. Here are a few of those questions—and the answers.

The following information can be found on New Hampshire Fish & Game's website [www.wildlife.state.nh.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us) and is used by permission.

### **Q: I've got children and pets near my home and I'm concerned about hunters coming too close to my house. What can I do?**

A: By state law (RSA 207:3-a), a hunter (or anyone else, for that matter) shall not discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within 300 feet of a permanently occupied dwelling without the landowner's permission. Doing so is a violation.

New Hampshire has an excellent record of hunting safety. Each year since 1994, there have been fewer than eight shooting injuries involving hunting, and about 78,000 people hunt in the state every year.

As a landowner, you have the right to regulate activities on your property. You may have serious and legitimate concerns about hunting near your home. Maybe you don't mind if hunters use a portion of your land, but not near your house?

One option is to post your entire property against all public access, that's not always an appropriate response to a specific issue. And while posting one parcel here and there may not seem like a big deal, it adds up when many lands are posted against public use. Collectively, we all pay the consequence of dwindling access opportunities.

Consider signage that will address your concerns, among them: "Hunting by Permission Only," "Caution—Horses," or "Safety Zone." With the latter option, you can establish a signed safety perimeter around your house, while keeping the rest of your land open to hunters and others.

### **Q: Can I hunt (or hike, etc.) on private land that's not posted?**

A: Yes. But it's always good to ask the landowner first. Common law in New Hampshire gives the public the right of access to land that's not posted. You won't find that in state law books, because it is common law, going back to the philosophy of New England's early colonists and supported over the centuries by

case law. Our forefathers knew the importance of balancing the need for landowners' rights with that of the public good. On one hand, the landowner can make decisions about his or her land. On the other hand, the public should have limited rights to use and enjoy that land. The colonists held similar democratic notions about rivers, lakes, fish and wildlife.

Today, it's easy to take this notion for granted. In New Hampshire and elsewhere in New England, we enjoy a long, proud tradition of public use of private land. This tradition also comes with a risk. A landowner who finds trash, disrespect or other problems can easily decide to post his or her land.

### **Q: What are the legal requirements for posting property?**

A: Under state law (RSA 635:4), the legal manner of posting calls for posting durable signs with any words describing the physical activity prohibited, such as "No Hunting or Trespassing," in letters at least 2 inches high, and with the owner's name and address. The signs may be no further than 100 yards apart on all sides of the property and shall also be posted at gates, bars and all commonly used entrances.

### **Q: Can I allow others to hunt on my property, even if I've posted it?**

A: Yes, with verbal or written permission. And as a hunter, you can ask a landowner if you can hunt on his or her posted property. But you have to ask and receive verbal or written permission. It almost goes without saying, but yes, you can hunt on your own land, even if you've posted it.

### **Q: If a hunter gets hurt on my land, am I liable?**

A: No. Under RSA 212:34, a landowner owes "no duty of care to keep such premises safe for entry or use by others for hunting, fishing, trapping" or other recreational uses.

But there are some exceptions. A landowner has a duty to warn about any dangerous conditions or use that they are aware of that exists.

Let's say you have a large old well on your land, and you don't take precautions to warn people about it. A hunter comes by and falls in the well, suffering serious injuries. You could be liable—and could pay civil damages—for not providing warnings or other safeguards about the hazard.

Another exception is for landowners who charge admission to people to use their land for hunting or other activities.

### **Q: How do I get involved in Fish & Game's Sign Posting Program?**

A: NH Fish and Game's Operation Land Share has a variety of signs ranging from "Safety Zone" to "No Motorized Vehicles" to "Hunting Permitted." These signs are available to landowners free of charge as long as a portion of your property is open to recreation including hunting and fishing.

Many more questions can be answered by visiting the New Hampshire Fish & Game website at [www.wildlife.state.nh.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us). If you have questions or concerns about recreational use by the public on your land, you may contact the NH F&G Landowner Relations Program office at [landownerassistance@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:landownerassistance@wildlife.nh.gov) or call (603) 271-1137.

The Sportsmen of Brentwood thank all the private landowners who generously allow sportsman's access to their properties. We encourage good landowner relationships and sportsman's etiquette out of mutual courtesy and respect. We are grateful and encourage all sportsmen to acknowledge the privileges granted, to thank landowners, and care for their land as they use it.

The Sportsmen of Brentwood welcome your Brentwood-specific questions. If you'd like to learn more, contact [pres.sobnh@gmail.com](mailto:pres.sobnh@gmail.com).

## Brentwood Police Department



On January 9, Officers from the Brentwood Police Department underwent training on less lethal munitions provided by Deputies from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department. The training included classroom lectures where we learned

the perimeters of when less lethal munitions can be deployed against an offender, details about the specific projectiles we will be using, and the correct method to deploy our munitions. The training also included work on the firing range where we had the opportunity to fire our new less lethal shotguns. Our thanks to the hard working Deputies who provided this outstanding training!

## Brentwood Fire Department

### Winter months safety reminders:

- Heat sources, such as fireplace, wood stove, radiator and space heaters need at least 3 feet of space from anything that can burn.
- Only one space heater or radiator should be plugged into an outlet.
- Portable generators always have to be outside as far away from your home as possible and away from windows.
- Test your carbon monoxide alarms once a month.

It's that time of the year to renew your seasonal burn permits! Burn permits are only valid for the calendar year issued. If you would like a new burn permit for the 2020 season, please stop by the Fire Department.

### Meet your Brentwood Firefighters and EMTs

#### Fire Fighter/ EMT Michael Dame



I got into the fire service while being part of the Virginia Air National Guard back in 2008, where I went through the Department of Defense's Fire Academy in San Angelo, Texas. Once I moved back to New Hampshire in 2010, I felt the need to serve my community and joined the Kingston Fire Department as a Volunteer fire fighter. After 23 years in the military and knowing that I

would be retiring soon, I decided I wanted to become a full-time fire fighter. So, in 2018 when I saw Brentwood was hiring for a full-time fire fighter, I decided to apply and was accepted to work for this wonderful community.

If I am not working, I can be found at my house detailing cars for an Automotive detailing shop that I opened. I am married to my wonderful wife Kara, and we have a 3-year son Wyatt who keeps us on our toes. We also have a few cats and a dog named Kazi who can be found watching over Wyatt very carefully while he plays outside.

## Bake Sale on Primary Election Day Home-baked Items Welcome

A Bake Sale will be offered by the Historical Society on Primary Election Day, **Tuesday February 11**, inside the Brentwood Community Center. Home-baked goods will be available from early morning until sell-out.

Members of the BHS as well as friends and neighbors are encouraged to bake and contribute their special goodies to the sale. Money earned at this event will help support the improvements being made in safekeeping of historical artifacts and staging new exhibits.

Donated baked items may be brought to the Community Center on **Tuesday, February 11**, from 7:00 am on. They may also be brought to the home of Linda Rousseau the evening before. For more information email [lindarou@comcast.net](mailto:lindarou@comcast.net) or call 772-4534.

## Brentwood Planning Board Proposes Zoning Changes

This year the Planning Board is recommending 4 amendments to the Town's zoning ordinance. The first of these amendments allows the Planning Board to consider cluster housing developments that incorporate more than a single access point for the proposal. The amendment would allow a cluster development to have several access points if the Planning Board feels that such a design is in the best interests of the Town. In addition, the amendment allows stormwater management infrastructure to be constructed within the one hundred feet perimeter buffer area in support of these additional access points.

The second proposed amendment changes the development standards for accessory dwelling units (ADU). With passage of the proposed amendment, the standards for ADU's will make it clear that the size of such a unit is reliant upon the square footage of the existing residential structure and that unit must be connected to the original structure by enclosed finished space, insuring that ADU's are not artificially connected to the primary dwelling unit by walkways, breezeways or pergolas. The amendment also removes language calling an ADU an apartment.

The third Planning Board proposed zoning amendment reduces the minimum separation of a proposed wastewater treatment facility bed bottom from the seasonal high-water table from 4 feet to 2 feet. This reduction aligns with the NHDES standard for such separation.

Finally, the fourth Planning Board proposed zoning ordinance amendment concerns the timing for Zoning Board of Adjustment public hearings upon receipt of appeals. The standard is proposed to be increased to 45 days from the present 30 days. This is done to ensure that the Town complies with new State law RSA 676:7, II, that has enacted the higher standard which became effective in July, 2019.

If you have any questions regarding these proposed amendments, contact the Brentwood Planning Board office at 642-6400 extension 116. Copies of the proposed amendments are available for review in the Planning Office.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY CORNER

Whether you are a longtime resident of Brentwood or a relative newcomer, this town's legacy of volunteerism is something about which we can all be proud. School volunteers, Scout leaders, coaches, library helpers – all add value to the life of this community. In January, I listed two volunteer opportunities in town and plan to continue to feature something new each month. I hope these listings inspire a few to continue our legacy.

In the charitable activity realm, there is a phrase that describes what individuals can contribute: "time, talent and treasure." Let's contribute more of our "time and talents" to serve our community.

### February 2020 Opportunities

Are you a fan of the Mary Bartlett Library? Do you like reading? Biographies? Science fiction? Mysteries? If so, here is a chance for you to help in an important way. One of the ongoing tasks at the library is "reading the shelves." Janice Weir, Library Director, stated that making certain the books are in their proper order requires a continuous process - reading each shelf on a regular basis. Though it may not be delving into the most recent thriller, it is doing a good deed for a key part of our community, and perhaps finding the next book you would like to read! If you can give an hour a week, it would be appreciated. Please contact Janice at [director.mebli@gmail.com](mailto:director.mebli@gmail.com)

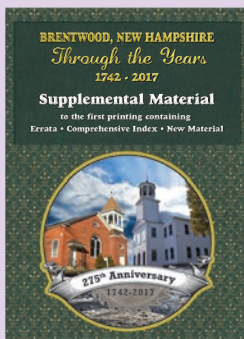
*Rebecca Dunham*

## Gardeners' Thoughts Will Turn to Wildflowers

The Brentwood Gardeners have come this far through the winter with some lovely memories that warmed the cockles of our hearts. Now for the February program we'll turn for warmth to a program on "Wildflowers," given by Christine Wellington, owner of Brentwood's Wellington Gardens. What could be more cheerful than the vision of nature's own little flowers bobbing in the sunny breezes? This will take place on Tuesday, **February 18**, 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room of the Pilgrim Church on Middle Road. Visitors and friends are always welcome. For more information about the Gardeners please contact one of the Co-Chairs, Torie Freeman, 778-3748, [toriefreeman1@gmail.com](mailto:toriefreeman1@gmail.com), or Linda Rousseau, 772-4534 or [lindarou@comcast.net](mailto:lindarou@comcast.net).

*Linda Rousseau*

## Brentwood, New Hampshire Through the Years 1742-2017



**BRENTWOOD HISTORY BOOKS** and a new **EXPANDED INDEX** with new material are now available for sale.

If you missed the first printing, you can pick up your copy at the Town Clerk's window in the Brentwood Town Office. You may also contact the Historical Society to request a copy.

[president@brentwoodnhhistory.org](mailto:president@brentwoodnhhistory.org).

## Wreaths Across America 2019



As one of the participating veterans commented, "Somber weather for a somber event." The weather was a bit somber, but for the most part, the rain held off for this year's Wreaths Across America Event on Saturday, December 14, 2019.

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out at coordinated wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2100 additional locations in all 50 US states, at sea and abroad. It is an honor for the town of Brentwood to be one of the participating locations. While placing wreaths on headstones was an engaging, heartfelt volunteer event, there was just as much need for volunteers for the Wreath Retirement Day held on Saturday, January 11, 2020.

The Cemetery Trustees would like to thank all those veterans, their families, and neighbors, as well as all town residents who attended and participated in this year's events. A special thank you to our pipers, Scouts, volunteer speakers, Firefighters and Police Officers who went above and beyond helping at this year's event. A special Thank You to Wayne Robinson for plowing the cemetery driveway so that we all could gain access to the event.

*Joyce Keegal, Cemetery Superintendent*

## Swasey Central School

Hello Readers! This year's annual School District Meeting is scheduled for **Friday, March 6th** at 6:30 pm at Swasey. I encourage all of the Brentwood community to attend to vote on our school budget and other warrant articles.

Keep up on all Swasey activities by visiting our school website <https://sites.google.com/sau16.org/swasey-central-school>. We have frequent updates and information on everything Swasey! If you have any questions about our school please feel free to contact me in the office at (603) 642-3487.

*Ron Kew, Principal, Swasey Central School*

### Important Dates

Feb 3	Brentwood School Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, SCS
Feb 12	Early Release, 12:00 pm
Feb 18	PFG Meeting, 6:30 pm, SCS Library
Feb 24 - 28	Winter Vacation

## Scouting News: Girl Scout Troop #51211

It's that time again—Girl Scout Cookies are coming! Over the next couple of months the Girl Scouts will be knocking on your doors and setting up their booths at local establishments. Thank you in advance for your kindness, support, and generosity as Junior Troop #51211 works to raise funds for a very ambitious project they will be completing in April to earn their Girl Scout Bronze Award. Last summer the Brentwood Recreation Department was kind

enough to allow the area Girl Scouts to camp overnight at the Rec Center and while they were there, the girls realized that there was no flag flying over the Rec Center even though the various scout groups use the facilities regularly, kids and adults alike play sports there in the spring, summer, and fall, and much of our community voting takes place there. The girls decided there ought to be a US flag flying there, too! After much research they came up with a budget of \$2,500 to complete their project: a flagpole landscaped by a pollinator garden. They have raised approximately \$1,500 and are counting on their cookie sales to raise the rest.

How can you help? When you see them out, ask them about their project! These local 5th graders will be excited to share what they've



been working so hard on this school year. Please consider buying a box (or two or ten) of cookies from them! Don't eat cookies? They would be happy to donate boxes of cookies on your behalf to a local charity.

*Donate your time, talent, or treasure!* The girls will be seeking assistance from the community to install the flagpole, choose and properly place pollinator-friendly plants, and landscape the area. If you are able to help in any of these ways, please

contact Troop #51211 leaders Kathleen Kelley ([kathynoonankelley@yahoo.com](mailto:kathynoonankelley@yahoo.com) or 603-856-4788) or Julie Morrow ([julielynnford@yahoo.com](mailto:julielynnford@yahoo.com) or 517-927-4686) and we will be happy to connect you with our Scouts!

Save the date! **Tuesday, April 21, 2020**, at 6:30 pm. Troop #51211 will host their flagpole dedication ceremony at the Brentwood Recreation Center and all are welcome to attend! Rain date will be Thursday, April 23rd. The girls selected these dates because they would like their flag flying prior to the start of spring softball and baseball games and to dovetail with Earth Day.

*Julie Morrow*

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## Friends of the Mary E. Bartlett Library

We wanted to give you a quick update on the Craft Fair now that figures have been tabulated and checks mailed to vendors. Our talented crafters brought in around \$2,000 total sales! The Friends retain 25% of that to be donated directly to the library for the purchase of special books. Thank you to everyone who supported the Craft Fair!

The Friends are sponsoring a Felted Soap Workshop **Saturday, February 8**, at 1:00 pm. Pauline Fabiano, from Acorn House Trading Company, will instruct participants ages 10 to adult for approximately 1 hour. Participants are asked to sign up in advance, and we're asking for a \$10 donation to cover materials. Everyone will leave with 2 felted bars of soap to enjoy!

Our December Blood Drive was such a success we've scheduled another one for **Wednesday, February 26** from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. You may sign up here: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=BRENTWOODCOMMUNITY> or visit the Friends of the Library-Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library Facebook page for the link ([www.facebook.com/FriendsofMEBLibrary/](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMEBLibrary/)). Donors may choose a free book from the Basement Bookstore, and once again, Monk the Comfort Dog, will be on-hand to mingle with donors!

The Museum of Science in Boston is one of our most expensive passes so we love to see it getting used. February school vacation is the perfect time to take advantage of reduced admission for 4 people. Check out a new exhibit coming early February called Dogs! A Science

Tail. This interactive exhibit helps you experience how dogs see, hear and smell and explore our relationships with dogs. Visit the website for Live Presentation schedules such as Live Animal Story Time (for Preschoolers), The Amazing Nano Brothers Juggling Show (about the mysteries of matter), and the always popular Lightning! Show.

The Friends of the Library need your help. We are in need of Board members and volunteers to keep this group running. We need new people who are willing to devote some time and effort to continue the Friends' mission of supplementing the library's budget to provide fun events and meaningful resources. Work a couple hours in the Basement Bookstore, assist at events, organize a fundraiser. We will be looking for a new Treasurer in June and would love to have you work with us to transition! Our small group needs support to keep going. Contact Sue if you would like to volunteer or have questions: [volunteer@friendsofmeblibrary.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsofmeblibrary.org).

The Basement Bookstore will be open **Saturdays, February 8 and February 22** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. We will resume accepting book donations ONLY during Bookstore hours. We will accept fiction books and non-fiction books less than 5 years old. They must be in good condition without damage, dirt or odor. We will NOT accept encyclopedias, textbooks, or outdated reference material.

Our next meeting will be **Monday, February 10** at 6:00 pm.

*Jessica Paul, Secretary for The Friends*

LIBRARY TRUSTEE MEETING  
MON. 2/10 @ 6PM  
The public is welcome.

# M.E.B LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF MEB MEETING  
MON. 2/10 @ 6PM  
The public is welcome.

## EVENTS

### LIBRARY CLOSINGS THIS MONTH

- GRADE 6+ MANGA DRAWING  
WED. 2/5 @ 3:30PM
- V-DAY CARD MAKING  
THURS. 2/6 @ 6PM
- FELTING WORKSHOP  
SAT. 2/8 @ 1PM
- LIVE MUSIC WITH RICH ARALDI  
WED. 2/12 @ 5:30PM
- SOCIAL CRAFTING  
THURS. 2/13 @ 4-8PM
- PAL-ENTINES DAY  
TUES. 2/18 DROP-IN 4-6PM
- GRADE 6+ MANGA DRAWING  
WED. 2/19 @ 3:30PM
- LOVE YOUR PET DAY!  
THURS. 2/20 ALL DAY
- GRADE 4/5  
GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB  
TUES. 2/25 @ 4PM
- GRADE 6+  
GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB  
WED. 2/26 @ 3:30PM

Monday, February 17th - President's Day

Work together to learn to draw in the style of Japanese anime/manga. We'll follow books, online tutorials and more.

Join Janice in putting together a hand made card for a special someone this Valentines day! Please register. Space is limited. For Teens & Adults.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Participants will create 2 felted bars of soap to take home. Cost is \$10 per person and space is limited. Registration is required.

Due to popular demand, we are bringing Rich Araldi back, this time to share classic love songs and the stories behind the songs! Bring a special someone for a special evening! Refreshments will be served.

Bring your unfinished project and play along with like minded crafters. Enjoy snacks and chat and get something accomplished! Open to teens and adults.

Come with a pal or meet a pal at the library for some friend filled fun. Games, snacks, crafts, and more. No registration required.

Work together to learn to draw in the style of Japanese anime/manga. We'll follow books, online tutorials and more.

Bring a picture of your pet(s) or print one at the library to hang in our display and share with the town!

Read the book during the month, then come to discuss and snack! Books are available at the library. Please register. Title: 5 Worlds, The Sand Warrior by Mark Siegel

Read the book during the month, then come to discuss and snack! Books are available at the library. Please register. Title: Compass South by Hope Larson

## MONTHLY EVENTS

PEACE AND JUSTICE  
MON. 2/3 @ 7PM

Movie about social issues. This month's movie is *The Great Hack*, which addresses how Cambridge Analytica skewed election results. Free/open to the public.

GRADE 6+ ANIME CLUB  
WED. 2/12 @ 3:30PM

Join us to watch the first episode of TBD, have cup ramen, and chat with other anime/manga enthusiasts! **Please register.**

BRENTWOOD BOOKERS  
MON. 2/10 @ 6:30PM

Meet to discuss this month's selection: Daughters of Molokai.

GRADE 4/5 I.L.A.  
(I LOVE ANIME)  
TUES. 2/11 @ 3:30 PM

Join us to watch the first episode of "My Hero Academia", have cup ramen, and chat with other anime/manga enthusiasts! **Please register.**

COOKBOOK BOOK CLUB  
MON. 2/24 @ 7PM

This month's theme: Breakfast. Please bring a breakfast favorite as well as the recipe to share at the meeting. We will taste and talk! **Please register.**

## ONGOING EVENTS

BRENTWOOD  
NEEDLE ARTS  
TUESDAYS 1-3-ISH

Knit, crochet, embroider, cross stitch, or do something else in the comfort of the library surrounded by other needle artists. All are welcome! No registration needed.

SHUT UP & WRITE  
WEDNESDAYS @ 6PM

Join us for an hour of focused writing each week following the format created by the organization "Shut up & Write". All projects are welcome. **Please register at the library or on meetup.com.**

SILENT BOOK CLUB  
TUESDAYS @ 4:30PM

Life gets hectic and sometimes you just want to sit down with a good book. Well, we can be your place. Join our weekly Silent Book Club and come in for an hour of uninterrupted reading. A local parent has volunteered to babysit!

DIGITAL BOOK CLUB  
ON GOODREADS.COM

Join our online book club on Goodreads.com! Log in, then search for the "M.E.B. Lib. N.H.- Digital Book Club" group. Vote and join the discussion. Books will be available at the library.

TECH TUTOR  
BY APPOINTMENT

Have a tech question you need some help with? Call or stop in to set up an appointment with Heather!

## Wandering Brentwood Artifact Finds Its Way Back Home



Left: detail of the rocking ship head piece.

Below: (corrected from the print edition) BHS President Rebecca Dunham assists Scott Cousins of Cousins Art Handling who arranged transportation and reassembly of the delicate Thyng Clock.



On April 19, 2018, the following exciting correspondence to Linda Rousseau of the Brentwood Historical Society was received from Geoff Robertson of Windham, New Hampshire:

I'm contacting you because my mom and I would like to donate the Thyng family grandfather clock to the Brentwood Historical Society.

This clock was in the Thyng family homestead on Deer Hill Road for over 150 years.

It needs a few minor repairs, but it is a beautiful piece and deserves to be kept as part of Brentwood's history.

Of course, the BHS Board at their next meeting enthusiastically voted to accept this Brentwood treasure, as it fits well with our mission to collect and preserve articles and documents related to our little hamlet's history and its residents. Other family members: Paulette (Thyng) Robertson and Donna Sholik Robertson were in accord with the gifting. Soon Geoff and son arrived with the precious cargo. Antique furniture dealer and clockmaker, Peter J. Sawyer of Exeter, was consulted regarding the needed repairs and was contracted to provide appropriate conditioning of the clockworks. As requested, he kindly supplied the following information on the antique acquisition:

This tall case or "grandfather" clock was made around 1815. The maker's name is uncertain, but the clock bears a noticeable resemblance to signed clocks made by John Kennard of Newmarket, New Hampshire.

The case is grain painted and has been over-coated with varnish at some point in time. The grain painted decoration is most obvious on the base of the clock. The door is veneered with birds-eye maple. The case is overall in original condition and even retains most of the original scrolled fret on the hood top.

The rocking ship on the dial is a special feature of this clock and is indicative of the War of 1812, a time of great patriotism in our country and a war at sea. Although the rocking ship has been repainted at one time, the rest of the dial is in excellent and original condition.

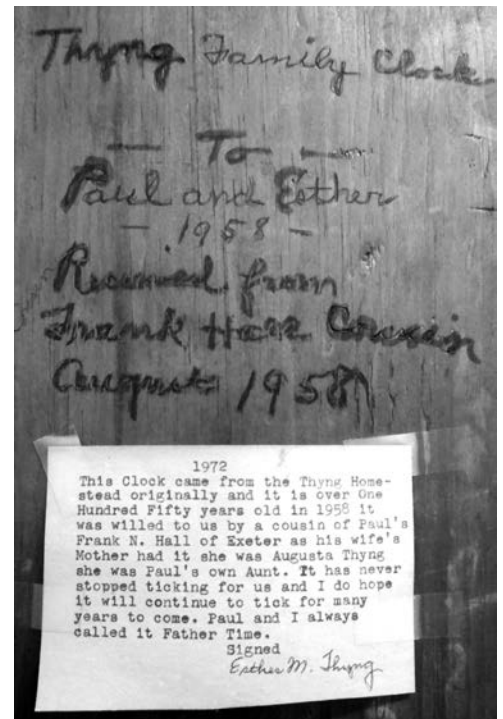
As is the case with most clocks of this period, the movement strikes on the hour. It is powered by two 'tin can' weights,

each weighing about 14 pounds. It is designed to run in excess of 7 days, allowing a weekly winding at the same time without ever having the clock stop. The movement is in original condition with the exception of minor and expected adjustments and repairs over time.

The "bonnet" where the actual clockwork is housed needed some tender-loving repair and Nicholas Wrighton stepped up to tackle the task with a pot of glue and honed carpentry prowess and skillfully reconstructed the damaged casing.

*Albert "Skip" Belanger, Research Correspondent for the Brentwood Historical Society*

The Brentwood Historical Society is open by appointment by calling 603-642-8944 or email [info@brentwoodnhhistory.org](mailto:info@brentwoodnhhistory.org). The Historical Society Museum is open 10:00 am to 1:00 pm the first Saturday of the month from April to October. All are invited to come view the exhibits, browse books, photos, and genealogical materials. Regularly scheduled programs begin in April and run throughout the summer and fall.



## Opinion [uh-pin-yuhn]

*noun* – a personal view, attitude, or appraisal

### School Administrative Unit 16 Offers Creative Accounting Course

Several years ago, an erudite chief financial officer offered to explain creative accounting to me. Simply put, he stated "Question: How much is 2 plus 2? Answer: How much do you want it to be?" This is why all Brentwood taxpayers should be seriously concerned, upon reviewing the recent Cooperative School Budget numbers presented by the SAU 16 administration.

In a nutshell, the previously-approved 2020 Co-op budget presented at the public hearing in January, captures money received outside the budget amount. Included are last year's approved warrant articles and CMS capital improvements bond money. This inflates the current budget, making it appear that it is \$78,617,295 - rather than the \$60,342,073 approved last year. The SAU then compares its 2021 request of \$64,059,213, excluding warrant articles and capital improvement money, to the inflated number and claims a significant decrease (-18.52%) when in fact the budget is increasing (6.16%) over last year's approved amount. Accordingly, at the January 20 meeting of the Brentwood Budget Committee, a "no confidence" vote on the SAU 16 administration and its questionable accounting practices was made. This same accounting "technique" was used for the Swasey Elementary School budget, but our Budget Committee caught and corrected it. One might wonder, however, how many other towns in SAU 16 have not?

Let's take a look at the numbers which come directly from the SAU 16 website. (Please do your own research to confirm at [www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org)).

This first table shows the number of students from each town. Brentwood student enrollment has declined over the previous year and has steadily declined over the past 7 years.

	17-18 ADM	18-19 ADM	Assessed Valuation
Brentwood	505	502	\$ 581,049,006
East Kingston	249	237	\$ 396,384,793
Exeter	1197	1152	\$2,174,990,424
Kensington	207	185	\$ 391,194,636
Newfields	144	150	\$ 298,879,566
Stratham	717	713	\$1,549,717,630

The following table shows us the current rate Brentwood residents are paying for the 2019-2020 school year. That's \$13.49 per thousand on your home value. An average home of \$400,000 is paying \$5,396 per year - just for the middle and high schools.

	FY20 % of Coop Budget	FY 20 Town Assessment	FY20 Education Rate (per thousand)
Brentwood	16.49%	\$ 7,840,212	\$ 13.49
East Kingston	8.14%	\$ 3,869,943	\$ 9.76
Exeter	39.07%	\$18,578,629	\$ 8.54
Kensington	6.70%	\$ 3,184,677	\$ 8.14
Newfields	4.99%	\$ 2,372,434	\$ 7.94
Stratham	24.61%	\$11,701,906	\$ 7.55

The next table shows us what the increase will be, if this budget is approved at the meeting on Thursday, February 6. This is an 11.7% increase in the amount Brentwood residents will pay.

	FY21 % of Coop Budget	FY21 Town Assessment	FY21 Education Rate (per thousand)	Change in Education Rate (per thousand)
Brentwood	16.90%	\$ 8,753,791	\$ 15.07	\$ 1.572
East Kingston	8.15%	\$ 4,222,065	\$ 10.65	\$ 0.888
Exeter	39.42%	\$20,417,804	\$ 9.39	\$ 0.846
Kensington	6.58%	\$ 3,409,835	\$ 8.72	\$ 0.576
Newfields	4.94%	\$ 2,557,268	\$ 8.56	\$ 0.618
Stratham	24.00%	\$12,431,559	\$ 8.02	\$ 0.471

Brentwood's current tax rate is \$27.70. Of that amount \$21.63 goes to the schools. If this budget for ONLY the middle and high schools is approved, you can expect an increase of \$1.57 on top of the current \$27.70. This does not include increases from Swasey Elementary School and the Town Budget and any approved Warrant Articles voted in at Town Meeting.

How do you feel about paying \$30 per thousand in property tax? Does this seem like a bargain to you, when SAU 16 administrative salaries are rising nearly 8% in one year? Add in the fact that you, the taxpayer, are covering nearly \$43,000 for SAU 16 staff to attain a college degree on your dime. Alone, the total administrative staff budget rose 9.98% over last year. Did you see a 10% increase in your income during that period?

In 2019, taxpayers agreed to finance \$17,800,000 plus interest for middle school improvements. You will pay for this over the next 20 years. This year the administration wants an additional 3.7 million dollars from you, despite the fact that 7 teaching positions are being cut.

In America today, the cost of living has dropped to 1.6%. How does the SAU 16 administration justify this large increase, when enrollment is declining and teachers are being cut? I urge you to attend the Thursday, February 6 deliberative session at Exeter High School at 7:00 p.m. As only those present will have the ability to ask questions, modify and vote on this budget, please do not count on others to do what you must.

Bill Dunham

Where to find the data:

The charts used in this article come directly from the SAU16 website. Full budgets and additional information can be found on the website.

[www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org) > Budgets & Elections tab

SAU16 Administrative Budget > SAU16 Financial Summary tab

Exeter Region Cooperative Budget > Proposed Budget after Public Hearing

Exeter Region Cooperative Budget > Line by Line Detail of Proposed Budget

## Taxes Too High?

If your taxes are too high, then you must attend the Co-op Deliberative Session on **February 6th**, 7:00 pm at Exeter High School.

This is the meeting that makes almost all of the difference to your tax bill. Many Brentwood residents attend our Town Meeting and/or School District Meeting, but these two budgets account for less than \$10 million dollars compared to this Co-op budget of \$64 million. The February 6th meeting is important because those *registered voters present* can raise or lower the proposed budget that goes on the ballot in March. If the \$64 million passes, without being lowered, the Brentwood tax increase will be approximately \$1.53/\$1,000 of assessed value. This is a \$612 increase for an average home just for this budget! Of the other five towns in the district, the closest to us is an 86 cent increase, and Stratham will only have a 45 cent increase per thousand! Brentwood already has the highest tax rate of the six SAU16 towns.

The Co-op (middle and high school) proposed budget is \$64,059,213, up 6.16% from the current budget of \$60,342,073. Some of this is due to the CMS expansion but \$2.16 million is for other items like administration and Athletics. Despite the increase, Regular Education is going down 3.6% and seven teachers are being cut. Special Ed. is increasing over 11% and Athletics are increasing 22% (because the business office forgot to include some coaching salaries in last year's budget).

Approximately 46% of the students at CMS are failing math, and have been for several years (see assessments on the DOE website).

The student population at the Co-op is down from last year and down substantially from the height. There are currently 1116 students at CMS, down from a high of 1371. There are 1643 students at the high school, down from 1740.

Please come on **February 6th**, or don't complain.

Liz Faria

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## News From the Statehouse

If you have asked why your taxes are so high, now is the time to attend a few meetings and find out why. Nearly 80% of your taxes go to the schools. More than 60 million dollars is collected each year to fund the middle and high school budgets. Attending the Coop budget deliberative session scheduled for **February 6th** is the first place to go. **March 6th** is the Swasey Elementary School Budget presentation where you will be able to vote on issues related to the elementary school budget. To understand the wants and needs of the town, attending the Municipal Budget presentation on **February 10th** is going to give you a lot of information so you can have time to dig in and prepare for Town Meeting on **March 14th**.

New Hampshire keeps the decision for how much to tax and spend closer to the taxpayers than any other state, so being informed about what is being asked for and why will prepare you to make good decisions at town meeting. Attending these meetings will allow you to ask questions and get into the nitty gritty of the explanations. It also allows you to digest the information after the meeting and gives you time to think about each proposal before voting day at Town Meeting.

One big thing to remember is if you propose changes to the budget at Town Meeting, you are voting on a "bottom line budget change." This

means, for example, without School Board Members and Selectmen committed to cutting from the line you intended to cut, the funds could be moved from another line to fully fund the line you wanted cut. The same goes the other way, if an increase is voted in and they decide they don't want to spend more, they can use the additional money and spend it elsewhere or return it to the taxpayers at the end of the year.

You are entrusting thousands of your dollars each year to be managed and spent wisely by your School Board and Selectmen. Do you ask these candidates more or fewer questions than you would if you were hiring them to manage your business? I suspect we should all ask more questions and these meetings are a good place to start.

State Representative Josh Yokela

District 33 (Floterial), Representing Brentwood, Fremont, Danville

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On January 8 and 9, the New Hampshire House met to vote on over 150 bills left over from the 2019 session. These were bills that had been 'retained' by their committees for further work or had amendments attached to clarify language or intent. Lest anyone is concerned for party affiliation, 94 of those bills were passed with bipartisan consent, approval and my vote. 58 bills were not agreed to on a bipartisan basis and were argued on the floor. Of the bills I voted for during debate, a few stand out:

You might have heard about House Bill 687 – relative to Extreme Risk Protections Orders. If signed by the Governor, NH will be the 18th state to take this step toward protecting its citizens. At its core, HB 687 will provide an avenue for concerned family members and law enforcement to ask the courts for assistance in protecting someone who has demonstrated they are a danger to themselves or others around them. The order will seek to prohibit them from using the most lethal means to do harm, a firearm. This process is identical to the current Domestic Violence Protective Order, RSA 173:B. A petitioner may ask the court for an order; however, the court is not obliged to grant the order. The order is reviewed by a judge, and if the judge decides the petition has merit, a temporary order is granted. At this point, a hearing must be held no sooner than three and no later than seven days before a firearm is removed. This law satisfies due process, as orders are reviewed by a judge and then by a full hearing within a reasonable time frame. False accusations, such as those of an angry neighbor or ex spouse are treated as knowingly filing false allegations and are prosecuted.

NH averages 123 deaths from firearms each year. 90% of those deaths are suicide. Since 1999, NH has seen a 48.3% increase in suicide rates. In a recent post on a Brentwood FB page about this bill, there was one comment from a Brentwood resident who believed a family member could have been saved from a murder/suicide had this option been available. I voted for this bill, having heard from witnesses on both sides of the issue and with no ulterior motive to take peoples guns away permanently, but with the intention to save lives.

Also, of importance to NH and our planet, a series of bills were approved to put New Hampshire on a reasonable path toward renewable energy. With the passage of these bills, NH will participate in the Green House Gas Initiative(SB122) and reallocate savings to energy efficiency projects, set a new renewable energy goal of 28.5% by 2040(SB124), and reinstate the solar net metering goal to

5MW(SB159), allowing towns, school district and other energy users to produce their own power – just as we have done in Brentwood! And, as you know from the January BNL, I have introduced legislation, HB 1535 to make it easier for condominium owners to install solar panels. I will let you know the progress of the bill as it moves into Committee hearings in the coming months.

Please follow my work posted on my FB page – Liz McConnell Brentwood Representative, NH House. I can also be reached at [liz.mcconnell@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:liz.mcconnell@leg.state.nh.us). Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Brentwood. I love this job! Liz

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### Conservation Commission Asks Your Support at Town Meeting

Over the past 6 months, the Conservation Commission has been working to conserve the 35-acre Brentwood Game Farm, a property on South Road being sold by New Hampshire Fish and Game. We are excited to report that, with the assistance of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, a buyer was found who is purchasing the property with the goal of putting a conservation easement on it.

The property consists of open fields and forests, abuts another conserved property, and is very close to a large block of conserved lands stretching north to the Exeter River. The prospective buyer is a local farmer who has been looking for a place to call home and intends to put the fields back into production growing vegetables and other crops. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to conserve this property while helping a young farmer continue the proud farming tradition in our town and gaining access to more locally-grown fresh produce.

The Southeast Land Trust is applying for \$305,000 in NRCS grants to support Brentwood's efforts to conserve this land. In addition, the buyer has agreed to what's called a "bargain sale," which means they are selling their development rights at \$235,000 less than the appraised value. This generous donation by the buyer, along with the NRCS grant, makes it possible for the Town of Brentwood to assist in conserving this property as open space for \$140,000. We think that this financial investment by the Town not only makes economic sense but will continue the impressive work already done in town to conserve open spaces for productive farmland and forests, maintain rural scenic views, and protect natural resources. Conservation easements help to keep our taxes lower in the long term by avoiding all the costs that come with a new housing development, such as maintaining roads, providing municipal services, and costs relating to schools.

Last year, the Town approved \$150,000 towards an easement for a property on South Road. Unfortunately, that project was not able to be completed. As a result, those funds are being returned to the General Fund. Therefore, if passed, this new warrant article will have NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT, and in fact is \$10,000 less than the \$150,000 appropriated for the previous easement (for more acreage!). The Conservation Commission hopes that we can continue the good work that the Town has done over the past 20+ years protecting Brentwood's drinking water, fields, forests, wildlife and scenic beauty. And so, at the Town meeting on March 14, we are asking you to vote "YES" on the warrant article to raise funds for this easement.

*Edie Shipley, Conservation Commission Chair*

## Brentwood Recreation News

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
603-642-6400 ext. 120 • [recreation@brentwoodnh.gov](mailto:recreation@brentwoodnh.gov)  
[www.brentwoodnh.gov/recreation](http://www.brentwoodnh.gov/recreation)

**SENIORS:** February's luncheon will be on February 26th at 11:00 am on the 4th Wednesday at the community center.

**Family Skate Night: Friday, January 31st** (February 7 snow date). Join us at the Brentwood Recreation Ice Rink (Castonguay Pavilion) for family fun! Bon Fire, s'mores, hot cocoa, and music will be offered for your enjoyment while you skate or hang out under the pavilion. Festivities will begin around 5:30 pm. This event is weather dependent, keep an eye on our website and Facebook page. Official opening date will be announced on our website and Facebook page.

**Ceramics Class:** Join us at the community center on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm for our adult ceramics class! Fees: \$2/hr plus the piece you pick to decorate. Pieces start at \$1.50 and go up. We will not be doing any "glazing" in this class. Register in person at the town office or online! Class will run approximately 2 hours.

**Winter Cornhole League:** Brentwood Rec is looking to start a new adult cornhole league, but volunteers are needed. Volunteer responsibility will be to open and close the community center. If you are interested in volunteering for this program, please contact the Rec Department.

**Brentwood KIDS Club (new):** Does your child miss summer camp? Well look no further, starting on **February 4th** Brentwood Rec will have an after-school program called KIDS Club and our Summer Camp Counselors will be back! KIDS club will only take place on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:45 pm - 5:45 pm** at the Brentwood Community Center. The Rec department will transport up to 14 students from Swasey Elementary to the community center in the new recreation van. Every Tuesday will be a different holiday or seasonal theme to give the kids something fun to do after school. Every Wednesday will be our Home Work Club, where counselors will help students with homework for the week. If you are interested or would like more information please visit the Brentwood Recreation Website. Registration is now open!

**Brentwood Summer Camp:** Resident registration for the Brentwood Recreation Summer Camp will open **February 3rd**. Camp operates Monday-Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, June 22nd to August 14th. Grades: Entering 1st-6th. Rates increase after May 31st! Visit the Recreation Office or our website for Parent Handbook.

### ONGOING RECREATION EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

**Adult Yoga Class:** Brentwood Community Center. Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:45 pm. Join Cheryl Rossman RYT500, to relax and rejuvenate. \$64/eight-week session or \$10/class. [www.letsgetmovin.com](http://www.letsgetmovin.com).

**Yoga Movement For Seniors FREE:** Brentwood Community Center. 1st and 3rd Tues. of the month at 10:00 am, 2nd and 4th Tues. at 9:00 am.

**Tang Soo Do Classes:** Mondays and Fridays. Brentwood Community Center, 6:30-8:00 pm. Classes are taught by Retired Law Enforcement officer Bob Meegan. He is currently a 3rd degree Black Belt with the World Tang Soo Do Association.

# Brentwood Meeting Dates

*Be sure to check the individual organization articles inside for many more activities and dates!*

The *Brentwood Newsletter* will run a SPECIAL EDITION featuring election news for March. This Special Edition will include the names of those running for offices and Warrant Articles presented before Town Meeting. Watch for the Special Edition in mid-February.

Feb 3	<b>Brentwood School Board Meeting</b> , Swasey Central School, 6:30 pm
Feb 4	<b>Board of Selectmen Meeting</b> , Town Office, 6:00 pm
Feb 6	<b>Cemetery Trustees Meeting</b> , Town Office, 5:00 pm
Feb 6	<b>Cooperative School District Deliberative Session</b> , Exeter High School, 7:00 pm
Feb 6	<b>Planning Board Meeting</b> , Town Office, 7:00 pm
Feb 8	<b>Basement Bookstore Open</b> , Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, 10:00 am to noon
Feb 10	<b>Library Trustees Meeting</b> , Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, 6:00 pm
Feb 10	<b>Friends of the Library Meeting</b> , Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, 6:00 pm
Feb 10	<b>Public Hearing for Brentwood Town &amp; School Budgets</b> , Town Office Building, 7:00 pm
Feb 11	<b>PRIMARY ELECTION DAY</b> , Brentwood Rec Center. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Feb 11	Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed.
Feb 11	<b>Board of Selectmen Meeting</b> , Town Office, 4:00 pm, Brentwood Rec Center
Feb 12	<b>Conservation Commission Meeting</b> , Town Office Building, 7:00 pm
Feb 12	<b>Brentwood Democratic Committee Meeting</b> , 25 Peabody Drive, 7:00 pm
Feb 12	<b>Brentwood Republican Meeting</b> , 105 Crawley Falls Road, 7:00 pm
Feb 15	<b>Deadline for submissions to the Brentwood Newsletter</b>
Feb 17	<b>Town Offices and Library will be closed for Presidents Day</b>
Feb 18	<b>Board of Selectmen Meeting</b> , Town Office, 6:00 pm
Feb 18	<b>PFG Meeting</b> , Swasey Central School, 6:30 pm
Feb 18	<b>Brentwood Gardeners Meeting</b> , Pilgrim Church, 197 Middle Road, 7:00 pm
Feb 20	<b>Planning Board Meeting</b> , Town Office, 7:00 pm
Feb 20	<b>Candidates Night</b> , Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, 7:00 pm
Feb 22	<b>Basement Bookstore Open</b> , Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, 10:00 am to noon
Feb 25	<b>Board of Selectmen Meeting</b> , Town Office, 6:00 pm
Feb 25	<b>Recreation Commission Meeting</b> , Town Office, 6:30 pm
Feb 26	<b>Senior Luncheon</b> , Brentwood Recreation Center, 11:00 am
Feb 26	<b>Blood Drive</b> , Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Feb 24 - 28	<b>Swasey Central School Winter Vacation</b>
Mar 6	<b>Brentwood School District Meeting</b> , Swasey Central School, 6:30 pm
Mar 10	<b>Brentwood Town Elections</b> , Brentwood Rec Center. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Mar 14	<b>Brentwood Town Meeting</b> , Swasey Central School, 9:00 am

(Deliver to Current Resident)

Brentwood, NH 03833

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